DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 286 572 JC 870 456

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TITLE A Countywide Adult Basic Education Program. Final Report, 1986-1987.
INSTITUTION Rio Salado Community Coll., Ariz.
SPONS AGENCY Arizona State Dept. of Education, Phoenix. Div. of Adult Education.
PUB DATE [87]
NOTE 9p.
PUB TYPE Reports - Descriptive (141)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Adult Basic Education; *Adult Students; Community Colleges; *County Programs; *English (Second Language); Enrollment; *High School Equivalency Programs; *Outreach Programs; Program Evaluation; School Community Relationship; Two Year Colleges

ABSTRACT

In July 1979, the countywide Adult Basic Education (ABE) Program at Rio Salado Community College (RSCC) was established to provide adult basic education services to Maricopa County (Arizona) residents. Between 1979 and 1987, enrollments rose from 729 students to more than 5,700 students. A major contributing factor to the on-going growth lies in the program's ability to address the diversity of multileveled, multicultural adult students in comfortable and familiar locations, such as shopping malls, churches, public schools, community-based agencies and centers, and county jails. Since its inception, the ABE program has offered 50 basic skills, 48 General Educational Development, and 33 English as a Second Language classes in 48 locations in 16 communities, as well as a variety of referral services. Other special features of the program include: (1) its emphasis on staff development activities, such as an in-service workshop for instructors, a statewide ABE conference, and program communications; (2) the use of a volunteer support system for students and instructors; and (3) special demonstration projects, such as a computer-assisted adult literacy workshop. Although the ABE program has experienced much growth, there is a need to further explore available resources in the areas of creating partnerships, promoting workplace literacy, improving instructional design, and expanding outreach. (EJV)

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Phoenix, Arizona 85003

A COUNTYWIDE ADULT BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

F I N A L R E P O R T

1986 - 1987

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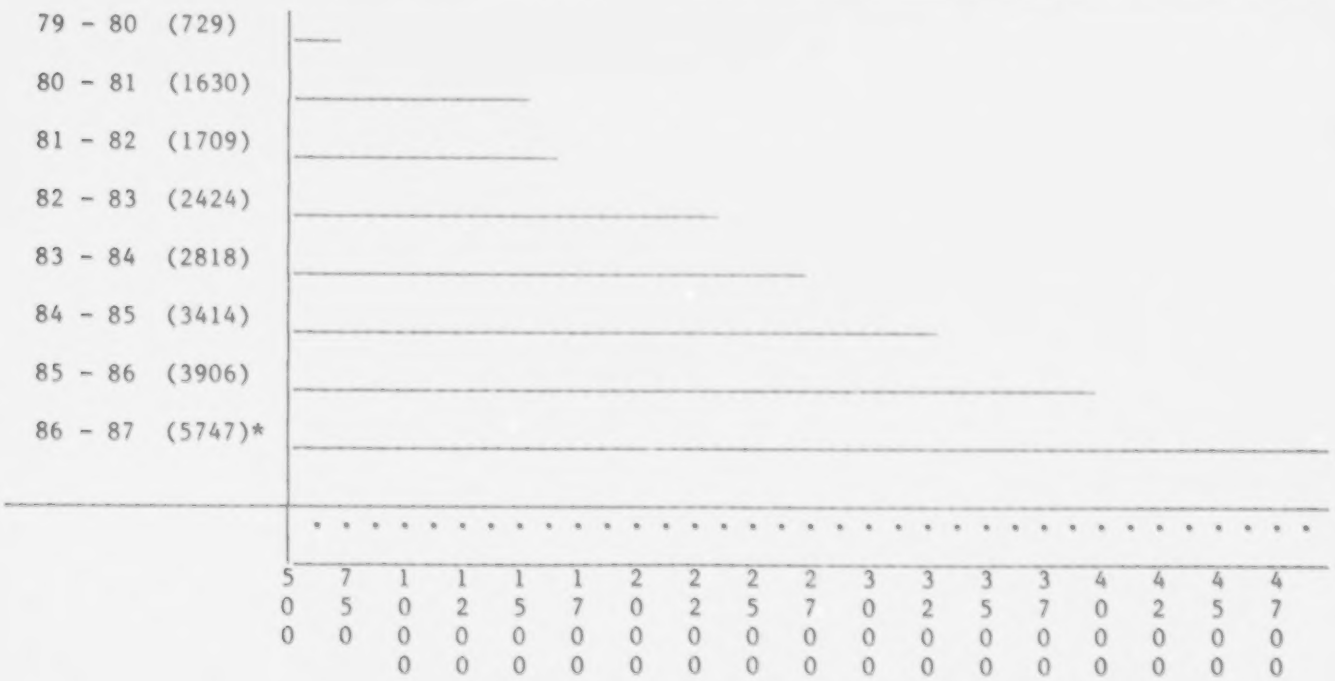
RIO SALADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COUNTYWIDE ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

ENROLLMENT:

In July 1979, the countywide Adult Basic Education (ABE) Program at Rio Salado Community College (RSCC) was established to provide adult basic education services to adults throughout Maricopa County. The steady increase in enrollment, from the 729 adult students served that first year to the 5700+ who attended Rio Salado ABE classes during fiscal year 1986 - 1987, is evidence that providing classes in convenient locations during prime times, works.

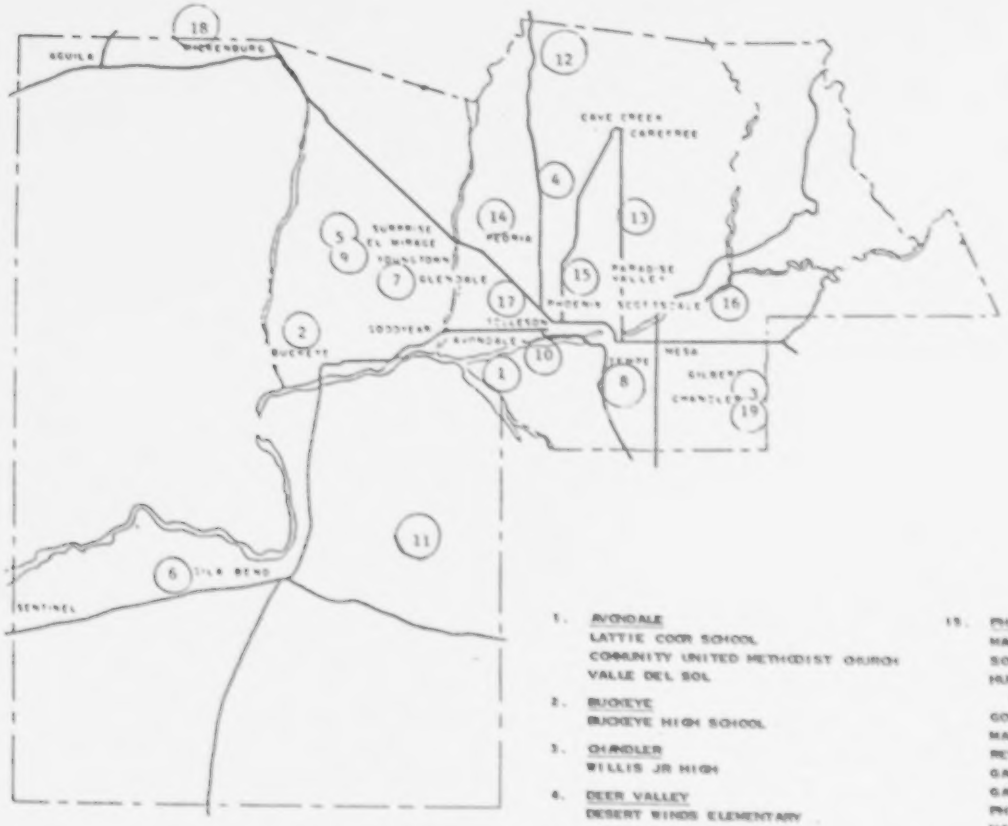


* Figure represents unofficial tally of enrollment from July 1986 through July 1987.

CLASS LOCATIONS:

A major contributing factor to the on-going incline of growth lies in the program's capability to address the diversity of multi-levelled, multi-cultural adult students in an environment that is comfortable or familiar to them. The Rio Salado Adult Basic Education Program differs from the other four programs in the county in that its service area is not confined to immediate school district boundaries. The Rio program is a grassroots program that takes learning opportunities directly to the educationally and economically disadvantaged adults throughout the 9,226 square miles of Maricopa County.

Some of the "comfortable" and convenient locations where ABE classes were held include: shopping malls, churches, public schools, businesses, community-based agencies and centers, military bases, community college campuses, learning centers, and the county jail system.



1. AVONDALE
   LATTIE COOR SCHOOL
   COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
   VALLE DEL SOL
2. BUCKEYE
   BUCKEYE HIGH SCHOOL
3. CHANDLER
   WILLIS JR HIGH
4. DEER VALLEY
   DESERT WINDS ELEMENTARY
5. EL MIRAGE
   DYSART COMMUNITY CENTER
   CENTRO ADELANTE
6. GILA BEND
   GILA BEND HIGH SCHOOL
   SENTINEL
   SAN LUCY INDIAN RESERVATION
7. GLENDALE
   GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
8. GUADALUPE
   FRANK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
9. LITCHFIELD
   LUKE AFB
10. MANZANITA
    CASH SCHOOL
11. MOBILE
    MOBILE ELEMENTARY
12. NEW RIVER
    NEW RIVER ELEMENTARY
13. PARADISE VALLEY
    SUNRISE MIDDLE SCHOOL
    PARADISE VALLEY MALL
    PALOMINO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
14. PEORIA
    ALTA LOMA SCHOOL
15. PHOENIX
    MARICOPA SKILL CENTER
    SOUTH MTN. COM. COLLEGE
    HUMAN RESOURCE CENTER
    1, 2, 3, NORTH
    GOOD SAMARITAN MED. CNTR.
    MARICOPA MED. CNTR.
    RESEARCH & DEV. INSTITUTE
    GARRETT TURBINE ENGINE
    GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
    PHOENIX COLLEGE
    VALLEY CHRISTIAN CENTER
    MADISON JAIL
    DURANGO JAIL & ANNEX
    TOWERS JAIL
    WESTRIDGE MALL
    WILSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
    WIDP
    IRONWOOD
16. SCOTTSDALE
    SCOTTSDALE ADULT LRNG. CNTR.
    VISTA DEL CAMINO
    SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
17. TOLLESON
    TOLLESON HIGH SCHOOL
18. WICKENBURG
    WICKENBURG HIGH SCHOOL
19. WILLIAMS AFB

In summary, as a means of providing basic education in math, oral and written communications and GED (High School Equivalency Diploma) Preparation, the RSCC ABE Program established fifty (50) Basic Skills, forty-eight (48) GED, and thirty-three (33) ESL classes in forty-eight (48) locations in sixteen (16) communitites in Maricopa County.

RECRUITMENT:

In addition to the regular promotional activities, the program uses (bilingual flyers, church and school bulletins/newsletters, public service announcements, guest appearances on television and radio shows, college schedules, etc.), schedules listing all adult basic education classes in Maricopa County were distributed to an extensive list of community and human resource agencies, high school counselors, offices within the Department of Economic Security, and local businesses.

While the Rio Salado ABE program has continued to serve the residents of Maricopa County as a referral agent (directing inquiries to the closest, most convenient location, regardless of sponsorship), commitment to that service was evidenced by Rio's active participation in the Arizona PLUS (Project Literacy U.S.) efforts. With funding from the Arizona Department of Education/Job Training Partnership Act, the Rio Salado Community College Adult Basic Education Program established and maintained the statewide literacy information and referral hotline, 1-800-345-EDUC/AzALL.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT:

A countywide program in an area as expansive as Maricopa County provides some very real and dramatic problems in terms of program delivery and uniformity. A number of activities were continued throughout this past year as a means of maintaining quality and consistency:

-An In-Service Workshop: Cecily Abercrombie with Newspapers in Education provided an enjoyable and informative session for Rio ABE/GED/ESL and CIT instructors.

-Statewide ABE Conference: Seventy-five percent of the Rio Salado ABE instructors participated in the two-day conference held at the Tempe Mission Palms

-Program Communications: Each instructor was given an updated RSCC ABE Handbook and received a monthly program newsletter. Regular site visitations and phone contact continued as has been the practice of the program.

-Master Teacher Concept: The program piloted a "master teacher" concept in which teachers with demonstrated proficiency in the field worked with other teachers in materials use and selection, instructional technique and design, and classroom management.

VOLUNTEER COMPONENT:

The volunteer component of the Rio Salado ABE program continues to be at the center of the support system for students and instructors. In addition to

individual volunteers, the program worked with the Volunteer Bureau of Maricopa County and the Adult Probation Department of Maricopa County (so offenders could fulfill requirements for community service hours). The RSCC ABE program also worked with and provided support (books and materials) for two Laubach Literacy groups.

SPECIAL DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS:

The Rio Salado ABE Program continued to foster the development and implementation of innovative projects. Funding for the following 310/Special Demonstration Projects was received:

1. COMPUTER-ASSISTED INSTRUCTION: ADULT LITERACY WORKSHOP - allowing three persons from the program to attend the Region X Software Institute at Oregon State University. The workshop provided participants with an understanding of the potential use of computers, familiarity with good basic skills software for adult literacy needs, and an exchange of information among participants.

2. ABET: ADULT BASIC EDUCATION TELE-TEACHER - a resource that was available to the residents of Maricopa County for providing information and assistance to adult basic education students in the privacy of their homes by way of telephone.

3. VIDEODISC EDUCATION IN ADULT BASIC EDUCATION - a project to pilot the Core Concepts, produced by Systems Impact, in Science and Mathematics videodisc program. Videodisc capabilities make it possible for the instructor to move forward or backward to a specific frame, slow or freeze frame, and to work with groups or in individual settings.

EVALUATIVE SUMMARY:

In looking at the innovations and provisions for literacy efforts, the overall accomplishments of program objectives and comprehensive delivery of services can be summarized as follows:

- Program Design: Convenient locations, prime times, flexible scheduling
- Curriculum and Support Services: Innovative and creative materials, identification and utilization of additional resources, and on-going modification and refinement
- Technology: Computer-assisted instruction, videodisc instruction, telephone tutor service
- Assessment: Standardized diagnostic assessments, progress sheets, oral assessments, surveys, statistical reports
- Professional Growth: Annual in-service workshops, participation in professional seminars and conferences, master teacher concept
- Communication: Regular on-site visits, staff newsletter, handbook, telephone.

EXPANDED FOCUS:

Although the Rio Salado Community College Adult Basic Education Program has experienced much growth, there is a continued need to better identify and recruit target populations and to further explore available resources and establish partnerships.

To address these concerns, the following expanded focus/future goals have been identified for fiscal year 1987-1988:

PARTNERSHIPS

1. Rio Salado Community College will provide the non-credit basic skills component of the Glendale Community College Literacy Center; an innovative concept that combines the collaborative efforts of a college campus, a community-based adult basic education program, and literacy/tutoring volunteers-- working together to serve underprepared students in an expanded delivery system for literacy and developmental programs.

2. Collaborative efforts with Literacy Volunteers - Maricopa County and Laubach groups have been established and will continue to be integrated into the community and outreach services provided by Rio Salado Community College ABE Program.

3. The Rio Salado Community College ABE program has been asked to actively participate as a partner in the Westside Training Coalition (other primary coalition participants include the Arizona Center for Vocational Education at NAU, Industry Training Services with the Arizona Department of Education, the Central Arizona Carpenters Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee, and the Phoenix Opportunities Industrialization Center-OIC).

WORKPLACE LITERACY

1. Rio Salado Community College Adult Basic Education and Glendale Community College will be working together to develop a model approach to the assessment and delivery systems of basic skills needed in the workplace.

2. Following a reorganization of upper management and department responsibilities, the Rio Salado Community College Adult Basic Education Program will become a component/division of the Rio Salado Community College Business and Industry Training Services Department.

3. The Hopeville Skills Training Center has negotiated the development of a pre-apprentice carpenter and machinist program. The Rio Salado Community College ABE program has been asked to provide the basic skills training that will be incorporated into the training packages.

IMPROVED INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN

1. The Rio Salado Community College ABE program piloted a part-time "Master Teacher" concept during 1986-1987. Because of the success in having master teachers work as peers with other instructors (in materials use and selection, instructional/curriculum technique and design, and classroom management), the program will explore ways to expand the master teacher concept.

2. Until recently, there were no clearly defined competencies in the ABE program, nor was there any mechanism to assure that transition from ABE to other educational programs was feasible for the student. The Rio Salado Community College ABE Program is developing (through collaborative efforts with developmental education instructors at Glendale Community College) competencies and test items in reading, writing, and mathematics.

EXPANDED OUTREACH

It has been inherent in the mission of the Rio Salado Community College ABE Program to provide literacy services to individuals who are "hard to reach." That hard to reach includes people who may be removed from services due to geographical isolation. New areas will be identified for class sites.

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